



State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Name of Proposal: DNS 15-054: POTHOLE RESERVOIR SUPPLEMENTAL FEED ROUTE – CRAB CREEK PHASE 2: TEMPORARY GROUND WATER RELIEF AT THE TROUT LODGE HATCHERY

Description of Proposal:

Impacts to the Trout Lodge Hatchery due to rising groundwater levels in Rocky Ford springs was initially evaluated/identified in the 2007 Final Potholes Reservoir Supplemental Feed Route Project Environmental Assessment (Reclamation) and the 2009 Final Potholes Reservoir Supplemental Feed Route – Phase 2 - Crab Creek Route SEPA Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance (Ecology MDNS 2009-02776). In both the EA and the MDNS, a bypass structure was to be constructed to protect the Trout Lodge Hatchery facility from flooding as a result of releasing water from Billy Clapp Lake down middle Crab Creek; the private hatchery is located on WDFW-owned lands. However, the bypass was not constructed and water continues is being released from Billy Clapp Lake at a rate of 100-150 cubic feet per second (cfs). WDFW staff have determined a water relief strategy needs to occur at this location to protect the hatchery and WDFW-owned lands until Reclamation and Ecology can construct a bypass facility.

WDFW, in coordination with Reclamation and Ecology, is proposing to construct several short-term engineered groundwater relief bypass structures and install temporary culverts to divert rising groundwater off of WDFW-owned lands downstream into Rocky Ford Creek.

Prior to this checklist, WDFW had to relieve the immediate flooding occurring at the hatchery on WDFW lands due to water being released from Billy Clapp Lake (July 31st, 2015). As a result, an emergency Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) was submitted and delivered to WDFW staff and Trout Lodge to proceed with immediate water relief work.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Charity N. Davidson, Col. Riv. Water Program Coordinator
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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Trout Lodge Hatchery, 14969 Road B 5 NE, Soap Lake, on the Gloyd Seeps Unit of WDFW Columbia Basin Wildlife Area, Grant County, Washington: Township 21N, Range 27E, Section 16.

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law¹ does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental

checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.² We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on October 23, 2015**.

Method of Comment: The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

Responsible Official: Lisa Wood

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>. Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.¹

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Lisa Wood at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2260.

DATE OF ISSUE: October 9, 2015

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

SEPA Log Number: 15-054.dns